GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2038
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Facilities to Tribals
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Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banking facilities in the tribal areas are so inadequate that the tribals have to depend mainly on money lenders and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether a large number of the tribals are engaged in cultivation and most of them are landless and practice shifting cultivation;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help them in adopting was methods of cultivation; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to help the unemployed and the underemployed tribals in finding secondary sources of earning?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JASWANTSINH BHABHOR)

(a) Pradhan Mantri Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY) was launched on 28.08.2014 with the main objective of covering all households with at least one bank account per household across the country. Under the Yojana, 3.15 crore accounts have been opened under PMJDY (2.15 crore in rural areas and 1.00 crore in urban areas) in 152 tribal districts with total deposit of Rs.4514.86 crore. Out of these 3.15 crore accounts, 0.82 crore accounts are zero balance accounts. RuPay cards have been issued to 2.23 crore account-holders and Aadhaar seeding has been done in 1.72 crore accounts.

(b) & (c) As per the 2011 Census, out of total 5.09 crore ST workers, 1.76 crore are ST cultivators and 2.26 crore are ST agricultural labourers. The farmers (including tribals) in some parts of country still practice shifting cultivation. The Government is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in the country with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet Ko Pani' and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, water conservation, drought proofing, water harvesting, ground water recharge, distribution, management, field application and extension activities. The program is composed of three components namely (i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, (ii) PMKSY (More crop per drop) implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, and (iii) Watershed Development Component (WDC) implemented by the Department of Land Resources. Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal ministry for implementing PMKSY.

Government is giving top priority to make farmers aware of new crop production technologies and providing them assistance for adopting these technologies through farmers' trainings and subsidized inputs. In order to propagate improved crop production technologies in the country, Government of India has been implementing various crop development programmes, such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) and National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) in the country. Under these programmes, various activities like frontline demonstrations of improved production technologies and newer varieties/hybrids, cluster demonstrations of improved package of practices, seed distribution of newer varieties, integrated nutrient management and integrated pests management, improved farm machineries including water saving devices, capacity building of farmers are being undertaken as recommended by National Agriculture Research System (NARS) for spread and adoption to enhance the production and productivity of crops.
(d) Government is pursuing a holistic approach to ameliorate the situation of unemployment among ST population across the country. Ministry of Tribal Affairs under its Special Area Programme of Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) and other Central Sector / Centrally Sponsored schemes provides funds as an additive to the State Plan for economic development of tribals in the States covering skill development and employment-cum-income generation activities. The Ministry has impressed upon the State Governments for promotion of need based integrated livelihood initiatives and skill upgradation of tribals to get them respectable jobs such as:
â€¢ Diversified crops, horticulture, dairy development with State cooperative, backyard poultry, fisheries, apiculture, sericulture etc. with proper market linkages.
â€¢ Financing under line department schemes like milk cooperatives.
â€¢ Marketable traditional skills like paintings, handlooms, handicrafts, artisans, skilled employment and other arts & crafts.
â€¢ Entrepreneurship.
â€¢ Modern skills: solar cell assembly and electrician, mobile phone repair etc. with appropriate placements.
â€¢ Eco tourism in Tribal areas.
â€¢ Skills for women: Computer training hospitality, paramedics, ayurvedic and tribal medicines & medical practices etc.

In addition, National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, promotes entrepreneurial development amongst Scheduled Tribes. This Corporation provides concessional financial assistance to individuals or groups of STs for undertaking self-employment income generation activities through its channelizing agencies. Further, Tribal Co -Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) imparts skill development and capacity building training to tribal Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers and tribal artisans.

Besides these, Government has also taken other steps to provide employment to tribal population. Some of the major initiatives are enlisted below:-

(i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) guaranteeing 150 days wage employment to STs households.

(ii) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) which aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

(iii) Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) to facilitate and upscale civil society action in partnership with Government for transforming livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women, particularly in the Central Indian Tribal Region.